



March 20, 2026

[SENT VIA EMAIL]

Jeremy Payne
Deputy Director
Loudoun County Department of Parks, Recreation & Community Services
742 Miller Drive, SE
Leesburg, VA 20175
jeremy.payne@loudoun.gov

RE: PRCS Proposal for Equestrian Use of Trails at Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve

Dear Mr. Payne,

Thank you for reaching out regarding Loudoun County's Parks, Recreation & Community Services (PRCS) Proposal for Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve Trail Modification for Equestrian Use. Ms. Richardson recently concluded her employment with the Virginia Outdoors Foundation (VOF), and I have been asked to review and respond to this matter.

The plans you have submitted outline changes to the property to accommodate equestrian use. VOF has reviewed these proposed changes in comparison to the terms found in the recorded instrument 20161003-0066265, the Amended and Restated Deed of Gift of Open Space Easement, as attached.

Included below is a summary of some of the information included in the PRCS proposal:

The PRCS proposal includes an assessment of current trails and proposed improvements to existing trails for equine use, covering ~8 miles of trail corridor. The proposed equine trails traverse the property, including within the protected riparian buffers and seep. However, it appears that minimal trail improvements, including minor grading, dead/diseased tree removal, 10-feet of live tree pruning for vertical clearance, and improvements to certain stream crossings, are necessary for equine use. No new substantial infrastructure will be required, as parking for the equine trailers will be on an adjacent property, but a number of small signs will need to be added along the trails to communicate that horses may be present along the shared trails.

Based on our analysis, VOF finds the proposal, as presented, consistent with the terms of the recorded open-space easement. No additional buildings or structures are required, and the improvements necessary to facilitate equine use on the existing trails are minimal. VOF will continue to monitor the property to ensure compliance with the terms and restrictions of the open-space easement.

Thank you for contacting VOF regarding these plans and please feel free to reach out with any further questions.

Sincerely,

Brad Baskette
Regional Conservation Director